# DIASPORIC SENSIBILITY IN THE SELECT FICTION OF CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI

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## DIASPORIC SENSIBILITY IN THE SELECT FICTION OF CHITRA BANERJEE DEVAKARUNI

### Introduction :-

The word 'Fiction' refers to literature that is created out of imagination. It denotes only a narrative that is written in prose and sometimes is used simply as a synonym for the novel. The Cambridge Advanced Dictionary defines, "Fiction is a type of book or story that is written about imaginary characters and events and not based on real people and facts". The Advanced Oxford Dictionary defines, "Fiction is a type of literature that describes imaginary people and events, not real once". In a nutshell fiction is written and read for entertainment. Pioneers of Indian English fiction writers are Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and R.K. Narayan. These three writers are considered to be the pioneers of Indo-American fiction. Indian Diaspora writers such as Salman Rushdie, V.S. Naipaul, Rohinton Mistry, Agha Shahid Ali, Anita Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Bharti Mukherjee, Meena Alexander, Kiran Desai, etc.

A word 'diaspora' comes from an ancient Greek word, meaning is "to scatter about". People of a diaspora typically preserve and celebrate the culture and traditions of their homeland. Diaspora refers to a population that shares a common heritage who is scattered in different parts of the world. The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines "The movement of people from any nation or group away from their own country". Diaspora means a movement of people in that through they change their own country / place for some intentions. They moved out to a new places all over the world. Diaspora literature involves an idea of a homeland, place from where the displacement occurs and narratives of harsh journeys undertaken on account of economic compulsions. Indian diaspora writers such as salman Rushdie, V.S. Naipaul, Rohinton Mistry, Agha Shahid Ali, Anita Desai, Bharati Mukherje, Meena Alexander, Kiran Desai, etc. Salman Rushdie's "Imaginary Homeland" (1991), V.S. Naipaul's "An Area of Darkness" (1964), Rohinton Mistry's "Such a Long Journey" (1991), Agha Shahid Ail's "Postcard from Kashmir" (1991), Anita Desai's "Bye-Bye Blackbird" (1971), Bharati Mukarjee's "Jasmine" (1989), Meena Alexander's "House of a Thousand Doors" (1988), Kiran Desai's "The Inheritance of Loss" etc. all these works are an example of diasporic literature.

When we focus on the diasporic sensibility has always been a challenging journey because there is an endless encounter between cross-cultural and religious differences in an Immigrant Literature. In simple words 'Diasporic Sensibility means feelings and experiences of a people, when they proceed to a new land'. People are in search for a better life from the beginning of the world. They proceed from one location to another for a better life, but their life becomes changed. People accepted a new land but their unconscious mind reminds them about their own mother land. As an immigrant, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is closely connected with immigrant issues. She has expressed issues and thoughts that are always related with the diasporic sense.

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an Indo-American author, poetess, and activist, born on July 29, 1956 in Kolkata, India. She had written poetry, short stories, novels, fantasy, realism and historical fiction. Chitra Banerjee's most of the works are set in India and America. She won American Book Award in 1996 for her short story collection 'Arranged Marriage' and her 'Mistress of Spices' had been shortlisted for the Orange Prize.

The present research is an attempt to find out diasporic sensibility in the select fiction of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

The select woman writer's fiction is based on real experiences of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. When women face so many problems because of immigration and they have to challenge race, class, and cultural conflict for own identity. Various female issues are discussed realistically, boldly, and clearly by her. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's works are : "Arranged Marriage" (1996), "Mistress of Spices" (1997), "Sister of My Heart" (1999), "Queen of Dreams" (2004), "Palace of Illusions" (2008), "One Amazing Thing" (2009) and "Oleander Girl" (2014). In this select fiction we can see women's struggle for freedom and self-existence. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni raised various issues like marginalization, exploitation and suppression of women. She also explores a realistic depiction of women's struggle, gender discrimination, alienation and socio-economic power.

**Statement of the Problem :-**

The present proposed research title is "Diasporic Sensibility in the Select Fiction of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni". She explores the problems of self-existence, gender discrimination on the basis of race, class, gender and nationality. In society women face so many problems in every corner of the world. Chitra Banerjee presented various

gender based issues in their fiction realistically and depicts the problem of nostalgia and immigration issues.

**Review of Literature :-**

The review of literature involves detailed literary study in the field of relevant subject. On Shodhganga@ INFLIBNET website some theses have been found out as well as articles and research papers. Recent works on INFLIBNET such as 1) "A Study of Diasporic Sensibility and Acculturation In The Select Novels of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni", a research focuses on the issues of a sense of alienation, nostalgia and search for self identity. Another research work is 2) "Diasporic Identity A Study of the Fictional Works of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni" it shows considerable maturity and skill in handling both male and female perspective. This research is focuses on self-identity. 3) "Remapping Diasporic Sensibilities a Critical Study of the Novels of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni", a research believes on human relationship and deals with cultural conflict.

The proposed research surveys Indo-American woman's fiction is in critically evaluative manner. The present proposed research Diasporic Sensibility in the Select Fiction of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is based on systematic study of each and every topic. The study deals with immigrants issues, hegemonic power structure, cultural conflict, diversity of thought, myth, magical realism and exploitation of women. Each and every aspect of this research will be analyzed boldly and clearly. It includes the study of gender discrimination on the basis of religion, culture, class, race and nationality.

**Aims and Objectives of Research :**

The aims and objectives of the proposed research study are as follows :

1) The prime object is to find out Diasporic Sensibility in the Select Fiction of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.
2) To investigate immigrant's issues and consequences.
3) To analyze the hegemonic power structure in Indo-American Society.
4) To study of cultural conflict and diversity of thought.
5) To find out the cause of gender discrimination.
6) To study Indo-American women's exploitation, plight, and oppression.
7) To study myth and magical realism.

**Rationale of the Study :-**

The rationale of this research is to consolidate on Diasporic Sensibility in the Select Fiction of Chitra Banerjee Divakruni. The select woman writer represented suppression against women and how Indo-American women are victimized by cultural diversity. The suppression affects women's individual and social development. The rationale of the research is to find out the treatment given to socially, economically, politically and marginalized neglected Indo-American women. The present research is an attempt to introspect on social evils in Indo-American society.

**Hypotheses :-**

The present research is based on following hypotheses:

1) Diasporic Sensibility is the cause of any immigrant society.
2) Alienation is the root cause of Diasporic Sensibility.
3) Discrimination is found on the basis of religion, culture, gender, race and nationality.
4) Cultural confilict is a unique feature of Diasporic Sensibility.
5) It is difficult to find out self-identity in Diasporic society.

**Research Methodology:-**

The present research is based on a study of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's select fiction. Textual and Descriptive methods will be used in this research. Various libraries method will also be used for data collection. Data collection is an important in Research field. It has two parts, the primary data and secondary data. The primary sources includes Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's Works. Present research focuses on complete observation of Indo-American fiction in the perspective of socially depressed units. The women characters are represented in the select fiction are socially, politically and economically suppressed in the patriarchal society. Their lives are always in danger and full of obstacles. They have to struggle with cultural, social, racial, caste and gender discrimination. The study is based on deep observation of characters perspective. The interrelationship among Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's feminist fiction is some how similar with each other.

The data for the research study will be collected from primary and secondary sources. Important Primary and secondary sources are as follows:

**Primary Sources :-**

Main primary sources are as follows :-

1. Arranged Marriage (1996)
2. Mistress of Spices (1997)
3. Sister of My Heart (1999)
4. Queen of Dreams (2004)
5. Palace of Illusions (2008)
6. One Amazing Thing (2009)
7. Oleander Girl (2004)

**Secondary Sources :-**

A secondary source is the source that provides non-original or second hand information. The secondary sources includes reference books on Indo-American literature.

The secondary sources also included biographies and critical studies by various researchers and their research papers published in National and International Journals of English Literature. The secondary sources we can find out on different research platforms like Shodhganga @INFILBNET, Web of Science, Google Scholar. The secondary sources will be analyzed in Quantitative and Qualitative levels.

**Scope and Limitations :-**

The scope of present proposed research is based on Diasporic Sensibility in the Select Fiction of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. The women characters in select fiction are suffering from mental torture, unequal treatment and child marriage issues. As a woman writer she can understand women's problem easily. The limitations of the present proposed research are, she only explores select issues of women in society and Magical realism, myth and history are limited with her two novels.

**The Significance of the Study:-**

The proposed research is to focus on Diasporic Sensibility in the Select Fiction of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. The main significance of this research is to focus on women's struggle and how they raised their voice against self existence. Indo-American women are badly treated by society. This research is an attempt to highlight women's issues in a broad way. The research depicts how socially, economically, mentally and

physically women are ill treated by society for centuries and still such practices are going in the patriarchal society. The present research is comment on social evils in Indo-American Society.

**Chapter – Scheme:-**

The present research is divided into five tentative chapters.

**Chapter one** : Introduction

**Chapter two** : Subordination and Subjugation of Women

**Chapter Three** : Cultural Conflict and Diversity

**Chapter Four** : Immigration and Struggle for Self-existence

**Chapter Five** : Myth and Magical Realism

**Chapter Six** : Conclusion

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